

1. (Amended) A method of preparing thermally stable transitional alumina stabilized with additions of lanthanum comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an aqueous solution of an aluminum salt and a lanthanum salt;
- b) treating the solution with an inorganic hydroxyl group anion-exchanger to produce a composition comprising aluminum hydroxides and lanthanum hydroxides;
- c) freeze-drying the hydroxide composition to produce an aluminum hydroxide powder containing lanthanum; and
- d) dehydrating the aluminum hydroxide powder to yield particulates of γ -alumina stabilized with lanthanum.

6. (Amended) A method of preparing thermally stable transitional alumina stabilized with additions of lanthanum comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an aqueous solution of an aluminum salt and a salt of a lanthanide series element;
- b) treating the solution of aluminum and lanthanide series element with an inorganic hydroxyl group anion-exchanger to produce a composition comprising aluminum hydroxides and hydroxides of the lanthanide series element;
- c) freeze-drying the hydroxide composition to produce a powder comprising the aluminum hydroxides and the hydroxides of the lanthanide series element; and
- d) dehydrating the powder to yield particulates of thermally stable γ -alumina containing the lanthanide series element.

REMARKS

Pursuant to the restriction requirement, claims 14-16 have been cancelled.